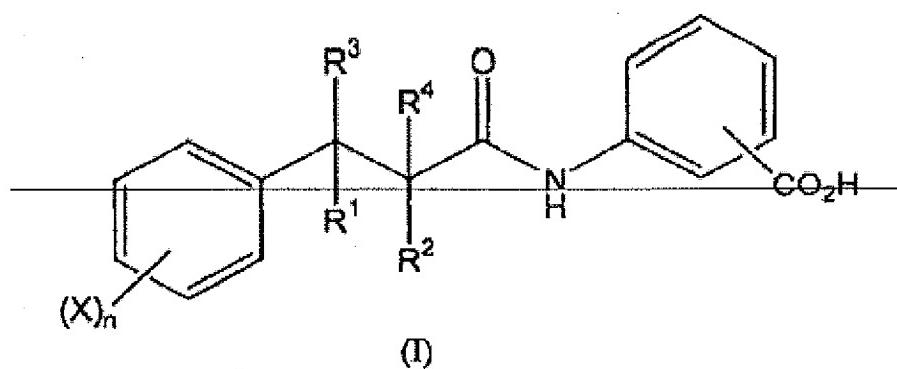


AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims. 1-25 (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of a condition characterized by aberrant, unwanted or otherwise inappropriate microglial cell functional activity in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) tranilast or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said condition is multiple sclerosis. [::]



wherein each of R¹ and R² is independently selected from a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group, R³ and R⁴ are each hydrogen atoms or together form another chemical bond, each X is independently selected from a hydroxyl group, a halogen atom, a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or a C₁-C₄ alkoxy group, or when two X groups are alkyl or alkoxy groups, they may be connected together to form a ring, and n is an integer from 1 to 3, for a time and under conditions sufficient to inhibit, retard or otherwise downregulate iNOS expression.

Claims 27-43 (Canceled)

Claim 44. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said administering is selected from a group consisting of administering respiratorily, intratracheally, nasopharyngeally, intravenously, intraperitoneally, nasopharyngeally, intravenously, intaperitoneally, subcutaneously,

intracranially, intradermally, intramuscularly, intraocularly, intrathecally, intracereberally, intranasally, infusion, orally, rectally, via IV drip patch and implant.

Claim 45. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said effective amount is from about 0.1 mg to about 1 mg per kilogram body weight per day of said mammal.

Claim 46. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said tranilast or pharmaceutically acceptable salt is administered orally.

Claim 47. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said administration is daily, weekly, or monthly.

Claim 48. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising co-administering a tranilast agonist.

Claim 49. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising co-administering an agonistic agent to enhance said treatment.

Claim 50. (New) A method for the treatment a condition in a mammal, said method comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount tranilast or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said condition is demyelination.

Claim 51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said administering is selected from a group consisting of administering respiratorally, intratracheally, nasopharyngeally, intravenously, intraperitoneally, nasopharyngeally, intravenously, intaperitoneally, subcutaneously, intracranially, intradermally, intramuscularly, intraocularly, intrathecally, intracereberally, intranasally, infusion, orally, rectally, via IV drip patch and implant.

Claim 52. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said effective amount is from about 0.1 mg to about 1 mg per kilogram body weight per day of said mammal.

Claim 53. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said tranilast or pharmaceutically acceptable salt is administered orally.

Claim 54. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said administration is daily, weekly, or monthly.

Claim 55. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 56. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising co-administering an agonistic agent to enhance said treatment.